



Michael R. Pence, Governor
State of Indiana

Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services
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To: Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services consumers, providers and stakeholders
From: Kylee Hope, Director, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services
Re: Congratulations Project SEARCH graduates
Date: June 3, 2016

On May 27, 2016, Project SEARCH held its graduation ceremony at the Indiana Statehouse for ten young adults who have served in state government as Project SEARCH interns during the past school year. Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson served as the keynote speaker at the graduation.

Project SEARCH is an international program that was developed at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and provides applicable and functional job skills to high school seniors with intellectual or developmental disabilities helping them gain meaningful employment. In Indiana, the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services' Vocational Rehabilitation Services administers Project SEARCH.

There are several Project SEARCH sites across Indiana with each site partnering with the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, a host business, an affiliated school district(s) and a community service provider. Project SEARCH graduates who serve at the Indiana Government Center have been hired by many state agencies, including the Family and Social Services Administration, Department of Child Services, Indiana Department of Administration, Workforce Development, Indiana State Library, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Office of the Indiana Secretary of State and Office of the Indiana State Auditor.

The program benefits employers by increasing workforce diversity and reducing recruitment and training costs. Many employers experience improved job retention, enhanced community image and increased customer satisfaction. Project SEARCH has a 70 percent employment rate for its graduates.

A photo gallery from the graduation ceremony is available by [clicking here](#) and you can learn more about this great program on the [Project Search Web page](#).

